



Scott Newcomer

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 33rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Member of the Committee on Fish and Wildlife:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity today to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 618.

Under this bill, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may not prohibit any person from erecting a tree stand during the applicable open season. The person must hold all of the required hunting approvals, affix to the tree stand an identifying number assigned by the DNR, and erect not more than four tree stands during the period beginning on September 1 and ending on the following December 31. The bill also provides that the tree stand may not be a permanent structure and must be actively used for the purpose of hunting.

The idea of this legislation was brought to me by an avid hunter and former constituent who now lives in Eagle River, whom unfortunately could not be here today. I felt he made some compelling arguments on behalf of all hunters that we decided to look into this idea further. We found a number of reasons to move this legislation forward:

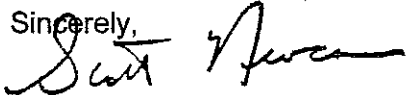
Uniformity: Daily removal of tree stands is not a requirement on National Forest lands and County lands and we worked with the Legislative Reference Bureau to ensure a uniform law consistent with those lands.

Safety: Currently hunters on State lands are putting themselves at risk erecting and removing stands most likely in the dark each day, even if they are hunting the same spot each day.

Consistent Rule for all Hunters: We worked to draft legislation that would not exclude a particular hunt, so we established in the bill that the stands can be erected beginning September 1st and ending on the following December 31st.

Widespread Support: The question was proposed at this years Conservation Congress and about 70% of the response was in favor of a change in the law to unify the state law with the current laws on the federal and county land.

You will hear many other reasons why this legislation makes sense from some of the speakers that have joined us today. Again, thank you for allowing me to testify today and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


Scott Newcomer, Representative
33rd Assembly District